

# AQUATIC MAMMALS OF ROCKY: BEAVER, MUSKRAT, & MOOSE

AUGUST 14, 2020

COURSE LEVEL: II COURSE #: S3057  
FEE: \$60 PER ADULT AGES 16 AND OLDER

INSTRUCTOR: JARED GRICOSKIE



PAGE 1 OF 2

LOCATION: Rocky Mountain Conservancy – Field Institute & Conference Center  
1895 Fall River Road, Estes Park, Colorado

TIME: 3:00 PM– 8:30 PM

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Explore the eastern side of Rocky Mountain National Park's lakes and riparian habitats while learning about beavers, muskrats, and moose! We will learn how beavers have shaped Rocky and why this species has declined. We will also look for muskrats and see how they cohabitate with beavers in our lakes. August is also a great time to look for moose as they visit our beautiful lakes in search of aquatic vegetation!

## COURSE LEVEL: II

Short-distance walks throughout the day primarily on level terrain.

## BRIEF INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY (additional information available at [www.RMConservancy.org](http://www.RMConservancy.org)):

Jared owns and operates Yellow Wood Guiding in Estes Park, specializing in nature tours and photo safaris in Rocky Mountain National Park. Since graduating from Penn State in 2002 with a degree in environmental interpretation, he has worked as a professional naturalist from Colorado to New York and Michigan to Texas, including a season with the National Park Service on the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. Jared has spent the past several years exploring and researching the flora and fauna of the Rocky Mountains, always looking for more wonders in the natural world to share with others.

**EXPECTATIONS:** Professional conduct will be expected from participants at all times. Respect for individual ideas will be observed. Except during course breaks, cellular phones, pagers, and personal entertainment devices are strictly prohibited in the classroom and during field sessions.

**CAR-POOLING:** Rocky Mountain Conservancy - Field Institute courses utilize car-pooling to limit vehicles traveling into the park. Car-pooling makes it easier to keep the group together, reduces transit time, and allows courses greater access because fewer parking spaces are required at destinations. In addition, it provides an opportunity for participants to discuss course material in small groups during transit. Typically, a few participants from each course volunteer the use of their vehicles for car-pooling to course locations.

## TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:

3:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Introduction
3:30 PM – 4:15 PM	Enter RMNP to explore beaver-influenced areas
4:15 PM – 6:00 PM	Head for Sprague Lake to look for moose and beaver sign
6:00 PM – 6:30 PM	Lily Lake dinner break
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM	Lily Lake walk for beaver, muskrat (and hopefully) moose observation
8:30 PM	Return to Field Institute

**WHAT TO BRING:**

- Sack dinner, snacks, energy bars, **WATER**
- Your favorite wildlife guide
- Binocular and camera

**REMEMBER TO BRING THE 10 ESSENTIALS:**

Rocky Mountain National Park recommends that hikers always carry the 10 essentials in their daypacks.

- Raingear
- Map and compass
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Sunglasses and sunscreen
- Candles
- Matches or other fire starter
- Extra food, **WATER**
- First-aid kit
- Pocketknife
- Extra layers of clothing

*Note: Rocky Mountain Conservancy-Field Institute recommends that participants dress in layers and wear comfortable, sturdy hiking boots. Hiking boots need to be high-tops that cover your ankles and that are well broken-in. Participants should be prepared for sudden changes in temperature and weather conditions.*

**REFUND POLICY:**

Cancellations received at least 14 days prior to the start of a class will qualify for a refund minus a cancellation fee of \$25 per participant for a one-day class, \$50 for a multi-day class, \$5 per kid's class and \$15 per half-day class or bus tour seat. Registration money transferred to another class will be subject to a \$10 switch fee. Cancellations received less than 14 days prior to the start of a class or bus tour will not generate a refund. If the Field Institute cancels a class, every effort will be made to place the participant in another class; otherwise, a full refund will be given.

**TEACHER RECERTIFICATION CREDIT:**

Most courses are eligible for teacher recertification credit through the Centennial Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES). The fee is \$25 per class (.5 unit) or \$25 per series of threaded courses (1.0 - 3.0 units). A list of threaded courses can be found online at [www.RMConservancy.org](http://www.RMConservancy.org). Participants must enroll in all classes of a threaded series in order to qualify for the \$25 multi-unit fee. Please be prepared to pay for this credit with a check, made payable to BOCES, on the first day of a class or on the final day of a threaded series of courses.